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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/811,118	03/16/2001	Jennifer L. Hillman	PF-0530-1 DIV	1102

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EXAMINER

YAEN, CHRISTOPHER H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1642

DATE MAILED: 11/06/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/811,118

Applicant(s)

HILLMAN ET AL.

Examiner

Christopher H Yaen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 August 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,9-15,17,20,21 and 38-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-2,7,12-15,17-20-21, 40-41 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3-6,9-11,38 and 39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of group II in Paper No. 4 is acknowledged.

The traversal is on the ground(s) that the traversal is improper and that additional claims and groups could be examined with the invention of group II without substantial burden.

This is not found persuasive because the search for the additional groups (such as for the polypeptides of group I, and for methods of using the polypeptide or polynucleotide) requires a search in additional databases which are not co-extensive to the search for polynucleotides of group II

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

2. Claims 8, 16, and 18-19 are canceled without prejudice, claims 38-41 are newly added. Claims 1-2, 7, 12-15, 17, 20-21, and 40-41 are withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to non-elected subject matter. Therefore, claims 3-6, 9-11, and 38-39 are examined on the merits.

3. This application contains claims 1-2, 7, 12-15, 17, 20-21, and 40-41 drawn to an invention nonelected with traverse in Paper No. 4. A complete reply to the final rejection must include cancellation of nonelected claims or other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.144) See MPEP § 821.01.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

4. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 3-6, 9-11, 38-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention lacks patentable utility.

The disclosed utilities for the GPx6 protein encoded by a nucleotide sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 2, sequences having at least 90% identity to amino acid SEQ ID No: 1, and immunogenic fragments include the diagnosis and detection of reproductive, immune disorders, and cellular proliferative disorders. However, neither the specification nor any art of record teaches what the GPx6 protein is, how it functions, or a specific and well-established utility for any of the fragments claimed. Furthermore, the specification does not teach a relationship to any specific disease or establish any involvement in the etiology of any specific disease. The asserted utility of the GPx6 protein is based on the assertion that GPx6 (SEQ ID NO:1) is structurally similar to phospholipid hydroperoxide glutathione peroxidase, and that because of its expression pattern in reproductive, inflamed, and proliferative tissues (page 23). The specification further proposes, based on chemical and structural similarity to phospholipid hydroperoxide glutathione peroxidase, that the GPx6 protein will have similar biological effects and activities. However, evidence based on protein sequence homology does not alone permit extrapolation to an isolated amino acid's biological function or use thereof. Bowie et al (Science, 1990, 257:1306-1310) teach that an amino acid sequence encodes a message that determines the shape and function of a protein and that it is the ability of these proteins to fold into unique three-dimensional structures that allows them to function and carry out the instructions of the genome and further teaches that the problem of predicting protein structure from sequence data and in turn utilizing

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predicted structural determinations to ascertain functional aspects of the protein is extremely complex. (col 1, p. 1306). Bowie et al further teach that while it is known that many amino acid substitutions are possible in any given protein, the position within the protein's sequence where such amino acid substitutions can be made with a reasonable expectation of maintaining function are limited. Certain positions in the sequence are critical to the three dimensional structure/function relationship and these regions can tolerate only conservative substitutions or no substitutions (col 2, p. 1306). The sensitivity of proteins to alterations of even a single amino acid in a sequence are exemplified by Burgess et al (J of Cell Bio. 111:2129-2138, 1990) who teach that replacement of a single lysine residue at position 118 of acidic fibroblast growth factor by glutamic acid led to the substantial loss of heparin binding, receptor binding and biological activity of the protein. Further, Scott et al (Nature Genetics, 1999, 21:440-443) teach that the gene causing Pendred syndrome encodes a putative transmembrane protein designated pendrin. Based on sequence similarity data, the authors postulated that the putative protein was deemed to be a member of sulfate transport proteins that included a 29% identity to rat sulfate-anion transporter, 32% similarity to human diastrophic dysplasia sulfate transporter, and 45% similarity to the human sulfate transporter 'downregulated in adenoma'. However, upon analyzing the expression and kinetics of the protein, the data revealed no evidence of sulfate transport wherein results revealed that pendrin functioned as a transporter of chloride and iodide. Scott et al. suggest that these results underscore the importance of confirming the function of newly identified gene products even when the database

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searches reveal significant homology to proteins of known function (page 411, 1st column, 4th paragraph). These references demonstrate that even a single amino acid substitution will often dramatically affect the biological activity and characteristics of a protein. Thus, despite the chemical and structural similarities shared between GPx6 and phospholipid hydroperoxide glutathione peroxidase, there is still a difference and it cannot be predicted, based on the information in the specification, what affect this difference has on the function of the protein. Further even if the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:1 is structurally similar to phospholipid hydroperoxide glutathione peroxidase, neither the specification nor any art of record teaches what the polypeptide is, what it does, nor teach a relationship to any specific disease or establish any involvement of the polypeptide in the etiology of any specific disease or teach which fragments might be active as claimed in a pharmaceutical composition.

In addition, Bork (Genome Research, 2000,10:398-400) clearly teaches the pitfalls associated with comparative sequence analysis for predicting protein function because of the known error margins for high-throughput computational methods. Bork specifically teaches that computational sequence analysis is far from perfect, despite the fact that sequencing itself is highly automated and accurate (p. 398, col 1). One of the reasons for the inaccuracy is that the quality of data in public sequence databases is still insufficient. This is particularly true for data on protein function. Protein function is context dependent, and both molecular and cellular aspects have to be considered (p. 398, col 2). Conclusions from the comparison analysis are often stretched with regard to protein products (p. 398, col 3). Furthermore, recent studies show that alternative

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splicing might affect more than 30% of human genes and the number of known post-translational modifications of gene products is increasing constantly so that complexity at protein level is enormous. Each of these modifications may change the function of respective gene products drastically (p. 399, col 1). Further, although gene annotation via sequence database searches is already a routine job, even here the error rate is considerable (p. 399, col 2). Most features predicted with an accuracy of greater than 70% are of structural nature and at best only indirectly imply a certain functionality (see legend for table 1, page 399). As more sequences are added and as errors accumulate and propagate it becomes more difficult to infer correct function from the many possibilities revealed by database search (p. 399 para bridging cols 2 and 3). The reference finally cautions that although the current methods seem to capture important features and explain general trends, 30% of those feature are missing or predicted wrongly. This has to be kept in mind when processing the results further (p. 400, para bridging cols 1 and 2). Clearly, given not only the teachings of Bowie et al, Scott et al and Burgess et al but also the limitations and pitfalls of using computational sequence analysis and the unknown effects of alternative splicing, post translational modification and cellular context on protein function as taught by Bork, with any dissimilarity, to phospholipid hydroperoxide glutathione peroxidase, the function of the SEQ ID NO:1 polypeptide could not be predicted, based on sequence similarity with phospholipid hydroperoxide glutathione peroxidase.

The specification essentially gives an invitation to experiment wherein the artisan is invited to elaborate a functional use for the disclosed polypeptide and fragments

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thereof. Because the claimed invention is not supported by a specific asserted utility for the reasons set forth, credibility of any utility cannot be assessed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112, 1st paragraph

5. Claims 3-6, 9-11, and 38-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Vas-Cath Inc. V. Mahurkar, 19 USPQ2d 1111, clearly states that “applicant must convey with reasonable clarity to those skilled in the art that, as of the filing date sought, he or she was in possession *of the invention*. The invention is, for purposes of the ‘written description’ inquiry, *whatever is now claimed*.” (See page 1117). The specification does not “clearly allow persons of ordinary skill in the art to recognize that [he or she] invented what is claimed.” (See *Vas-Cath* at page 1116).

Applicant is reminded that *Vas-Cath* makes clear that the written description provision of 35 USC 112 is severable from its enablement provision (see page 115).

What are allelic variants? Reiger et al (Glossary of Genetics and Cytogenetics, Classical and Molecular, 4th Ed., Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1976) clearly define alleles as one of two or more alternative forms of a gene occupying the same locus on a particular chromosome..... and differing from other alleles of that locus at one or more mutational sites (page 17). Thus, the structure of naturally occurring allelic sequences are not defined, nor in this case, is the structure of allelic variant proteins encoded by allelic

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variant genes defined. With the exception of SEQ ID NO:2, the skilled artisan cannot envision the detailed structure of the encompassed polynucleotides and or encoded variants and therefore conception is not achieved until reduction to practice has occurred, regardless of the complexity or simplicity of the method of isolation. Adequate written description requires more than a mere statement that it is part of the invention and a reference to a potential method of isolating it. The nucleotide sequence and amino acid sequence itself are required. See *Fiers v. Revel*, 25 USPQ 2d 1601 at 1606 (CAFC 1993) and *Amgen Inc. V. Chugai Pharmaceutical Co. Lts.*, 18 USPQ2d 1016.

Furthermore, *The Regents of the University of California v. Eli Lilly* (43 USPQ2d 1398-1412) are clearly applicable to the instant rejection. The court held that a generic statement which defines a genus of nucleic acids by only their functional activity does not provide an adequate written description of the genus. The court indicated that while Applicants are not required to disclose every species encompassed by a genus, the description of a genus is achieved by the recitation of a representative number of DNA molecules, usually defined by a nucleotide sequence, falling within the scope of the claimed genus. At section B(1), the court states that "An adequate written description of a DNA...requires a precise definition, such as by structure, formula, chemical name, or physical properties', not a mere wish or plan for obtaining the claimed chemical invention".

No disclosure, beyond the mere mention of allelic variants is made in the specification. This is insufficient to support the generic claims as provided by the

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Interim Written Description Guidelines published in the June 15, 1998 Federal Register at Volume 63, Number 114, pages 32639-32645.

Therefore only an isolated nucleotide sequence having a sequence of SEQ ID NO. 2 meets the written description provision of 35 USC 112, first paragraph.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112, 1st paragraph

6. Claims 3-6, 9-11, and 38-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for a polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID No: 2 encoding SEQ ID No: 1, does not reasonably provide enablement for fragments, of amino acids which are 90% homologous to SEQ ID Nos: 1 or 2 . The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

The first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112 states, "The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same...". The courts have interpreted this to mean that the specification must enable one skilled in the art to make and use the invention without undue experimentation. The courts have further interpreted undue experimentation as requiring "ingenuity beyond that to be expected of one of ordinary skill in the art" (Fields v. Conover, 170 USPQ 276 (CCPA 1971)) or requiring an extended period of experimentation in the absence of sufficient direction or guidance (In re Colianni, 195 USPQ 150 (CCPA 1977)). Factors

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to be considered in determining whether a disclosure meets the enablement requirement of 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, have been described in In re Colianni, 195 USPQ 150, 153 (CCPA 1977) and have been clarified by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences in Ex parte Forman, 230 USPQ 546 (BPAI 1986). Among the factors are the nature of the invention, the state of the prior art, the predictability or lack thereof in the art, the amount of direction or guidance present, the presence or absence of working examples, the breadth of the claims, and the quantity of experimentation needed.

The nature of the invention: The claims of the instant invention are drawn to a isolated polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID No: 2 wherein the polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide of SEQ ID No: 2, a polypeptide which is 90% homologous to SEQ ID No: 1, fragments which comprise at least 10 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID No: 1, wherein the polynucleotide is 90% homologous to SEQ ID No: 2, and fragments which comprise at least 30 contiguous bases of SEQ ID No: 2, and are complementary to SEQ ID No: 2.

The amount of direction or guidance present and the presence or absence of working examples: The disclosure of the instant application clearly describes a polynucleotide sequence which comprises SEQ ID No: 2, a polypeptide which comprises SEQ ID No: 1 and no other. One of skill in the art would not be able to practice or make the instant invention because the skilled artisan would not know which bases are representative of the 90% homologous nucleotide sequences or the peptides encoded by SEQ ID No: 2. Furthermore, the fragments which are encompassed by the polynucleotides encoding

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the polypeptide fragments cannot be clearly determined because one of skill would not know which fragments are encompassed by that claimed in the instant invention.

The breadth of the claims and the quantity of experimentation needed: Because the specification has not enabled the skilled artisan as to which sequences, either nucleotide or peptide, are represented by the recited claims, one of skill in the art would be forced into undue experimentation.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112, 1st paragraph

7. Claims 3-6, and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Regarding claim 3, in the recitation of the term "fragment" and "immunogeneic fragment", it is unclear as to what structure or amino acid sequence is encompassed by the claims and therefore the metes and bounds of the term cannot be determined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

9. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Mullineaux PM *et al* (Plant J 1998 Feb; 13(3):375-9). Claim 3 is drawn to an isolated

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polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide fragment encoding at least 10 contiguous amino acids from SEQ ID No: 1 having glutathione peroxidase activity. Mullineaux PM *et al* teach a cDNA clone encoding a plastid-targeted glutathione peroxidase of which has 10 contiguous amino acids selected from SEQ ID No: 1 (see sequence alignment).

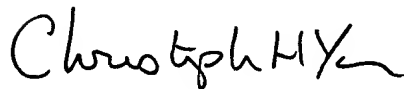
Conclusion

No claim is allowed.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher H Yaen whose telephone number is 703-305-3586. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Caputa can be reached on 703-308-3995. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-4242 for regular communications and 703-305-3014 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0196.



Christopher Yaen
Art Unit 1642
October 30, 2002



ALI R. SALIMI
PRIMARY EXAMINER